



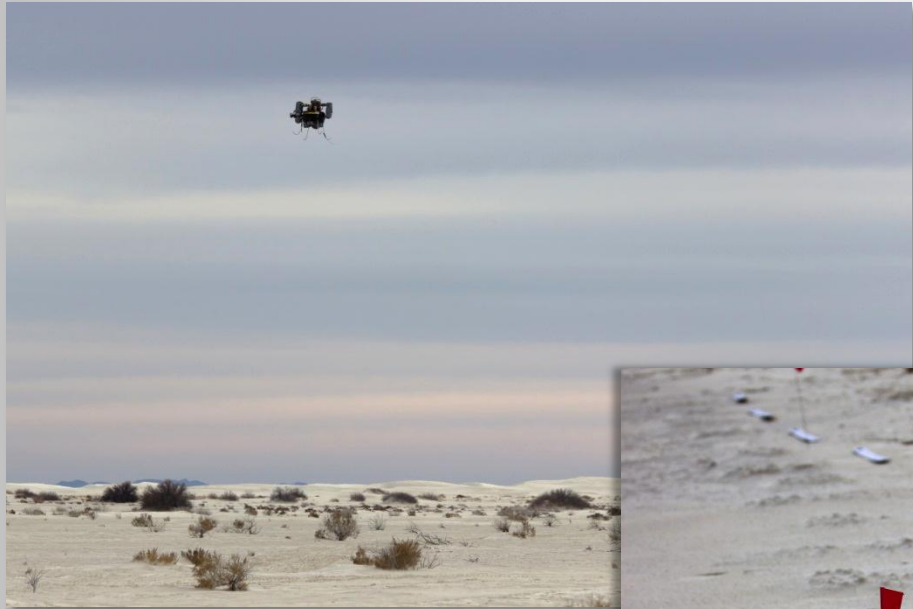
White Sands National Monument, New Mexico

Using Unmanned Aerial Systems for Pleistocene Trackway Surveys

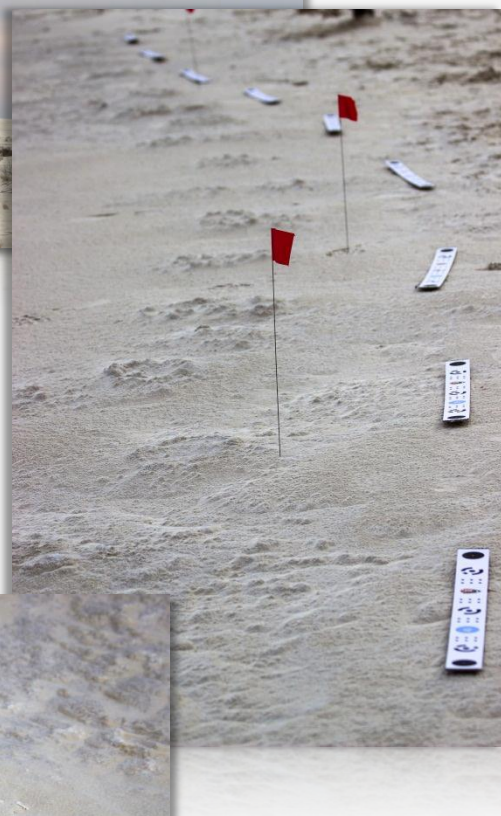
Jan 6 -10, 2014



The pilot study prototypes the methodologies for an aerial survey for photogrammetric documentation of extremely fragile and ephemeral fossilized footprints from the late Pleistocene time period.



Right: "Ice Age" fossil vertebrate trackways, which date to approximately 20,000 years ago.



Right: Modified T-Hawk UAS with Canon S100 payload.



Below: Aerial photogrammetry of centimeter level ground resolved distances. The geospatial data collection can be accomplished without ground disturbances to the fragile paleontological resources.



The fossil tracks are preserved in soft gypsiferous lacustrine and playa lake margin sediments which are extremely fragile, ephemeral, and weather rapidly once exposed.

